

Message Text

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70

ACTION NEA-09

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R 221300Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2611

INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA

UNCLAS COLOMBO 1274

MANILA PASS SECRETARY SIMON'S PARTY

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (SIMON, WILLIAM E.), CE

SUBJ: TREASURY SECRETARY SIMON'S DEPARTUE STATEMENT

1. SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY SIMON ISSUED FOLLOWING
STATEMEMENT ON DEPARTURE COLOMBO APRIL 22:

"IT HAS BEEN A GREAT PERSONAL PLEASURE FOR
ME TO VISIT SRI LANKA AND TO TALK WITH PRIME
MINISTER BANDARANAIKE AS WELL AS OTHER MEMBERS OF
HER GOVERNMENT. OUR DISCUSSIONS HERE WERE MARKED
BY A SPIRIT OF FRIENDLINESS AND CENTERED ON MEANS
OF STRENGTHENING COOPERATION BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES
ON ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT ISSUES.

"AS I DID IN INDIA AND AS I WILL AGAIN IN MANILA
WHERE I WILL ATTEND THE EIGHT ANNUAL MEETING OF
THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK, I EMPHASIZED TO
MRS. BANDARANAIKE THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL
CONTINUE TO BE A STRONG AND RELIABLE PARTNER

IN THE SEARCH FOR PEACE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

"DURING THE CURRENT FISCAL YEAR, THE FORD
ADMINISTRATION HAS BEEN ABLE TO EXTEND \$35.5 MILLION
IN ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO SRI LANKA WHICH IS THE LARGEST
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AMOUNT OF U.S. AID IN ANY YEAR SINCE OUR

PROGRAM OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE WITH SRI LANKA WAS INAUGURATED 25 YEARS AGO. THIS ASSISTANCE IS BUT ONE INDICATOR OF THE CONCERN THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS FOR SRI LANKA'S EFFORTS TO PROVIDE ITS CITIZENS WITH ADEQUATE FOOD, HEALTH FACILITIES AND EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES.

"BUT LET US NOT MISLEAD EACH OTHER. IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE CAN MAKE ONLY A MARGINAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF ANY COUNTRY. ULTIMATE SUCCESS WILL DEPEND UPON THE ENERGY AND INITIATIVE OF EACH NATION'S OWN PEOPLE AND THE WISDOM SHOWN BY GOVERNMENTS IN FREEING THOSE ENERGIES FOR FULL REALIZATION OF THEIR CREATIVE POTENTIAL. IN OUR VIEW, THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT A FREE AND GROWING INTERNATIONAL

MARKET ECONOMY OFFERS A POWERFUL VEHICLE BY WHICH THE ENERGIES OF THE POEPLE IN ALL NATIONS CAN BE MOBILIZED.

"AS I LEAVE SRI LANKA, I WOULD LIKE ONCE AGAIN TO THANK MRS. BANDARANAIKE AND ALL OF THE PEOPLE OF THIS BEAUTIFUL NATION FOR THEIR KIND HOSPITALITY DURING OUR VISIT. TIES BETWEEN AMERICANS AND CEYLONSE EXTEND BACK OVER 150 YEARS. I AM ESPECIALLY PLEASED THAT THE AFFINITY OUR TWO PEOPLES HAVE SHOWN FOR EACH OTHER CONTINUES TO TRANSLATE INTO FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO NATIONS AS WELL AS MATERIAL SUPPORT FROM THE UNITED STATES FOR SRI LANKA'S DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM."

2. USIS HAS RELEASED STATEMENT TO PRESS.

VAN HOLLEN

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